

INFORMATION LETTER

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

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Canners Urged To Review Filling Operations

In a letter to all members, N.C.A. Executive Vice President Carlos Campbell this week called attention to the growing public awareness regarding fill of container, and urged canners to give immediate attention to their filling operations. Following is the text of his letter:

To N.C.A. Members:

Canners, along with other food processors, were accused of short-weighting the consumer at the recent hearings of the Monopoly Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Also, at the annual meeting of the Weights and Measures officials, held here in Washington a few weeks ago, canners' practices in maintaining uniform fill of containers and proper designation of the net contents on the label were spotlighted. These officials, both state and federal, are now stepping up their investigation in this field with implication of regulatory action to follow. It is hardly necessary, therefore, that you be reminded of the need for checking your practices against the pertinent regulations. We should also remind you that the state regulations, which for the most part are similar to the federal, are frequently more dangerous than they appear, because of uncertainty of local interpretation.

Most canners maintain a close check on uniform fill. We must, however, remind each and every packer that he must be prepared to show that he does maintain these close checks, and that the results as shown by the variation of fill of the cans and jars he turns out are well within the prescribed limits permitted by the Food and Drug Regulation.

The regulatory agencies recognize that even the most efficient filling practices result in some slight variation. The crux of the matter is, therefore, the degree of assurance that the average contents will always be higher than the amount declared on the label, and that the range is within reasonable limits. Methods of control are constantly improving. What has been thought good enough in the past may not be good enough now. Some canners are using statistical quality control to advantage. However, this is

not a panacea; it is a standard technique to measure (a) what is happening, and (b) what margin of assurance exists. With or without SQC there must be a firm assurance that averages are high enough and that no wild deviations occur.

I am confident that you are fully aware of the importance of this situa-

tion and entirely capable of controlling the filling operations within the limits recognized as complying with the regulations. You may, however, need to review your control practices and records very carefully, and if variations have been too great, you will want to find out why and make the required changes immediately. Above all, do it now, and make frequent and systematic checks in the future.

House Agriculture Committee Approves Farm Bill Retaining Marketing Order Exemption for Canning Crops

An amended version of the Administration's omnibus farm bill was approved by the House Agriculture Committee on July 20 and ordered to be reported. The new bill, H.R. 8230, is expected to be reported formally to the House by midnight, July 22, and may be debated by the House next week.

The bill would continue the present exemption of canning crops from federal marketing order authority; however, it would authorize marketing orders for apples (including those for canning or freezing) produced in California, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Connecticut; cranberries (including those for canning or freezing); and turkeys (including those for canning or freezing). Under present law, marketing orders may be issued for apples produced in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho and intended for fresh market sale. This authority would not be changed by the bill.

No federal marketing orders could be issued for cranberries or apples intended for canning or freezing without the prior approval of processors representing more than 50 percent of the total volume of such commodities which were canned or frozen in the area concerned during a representative period determined by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Debate is scheduled to begin July 24 in the Senate on a companion bill, S. 1643, which was reported by the Senate Agriculture Committee on July 17. The bill would continue the present exemption from federal marketing order authority of fruits and vegetables intended for canning or freezing. It would, however, authorize such orders for cherries and cranber-

ries for canning or freezing, for all turkeys and lambs, regardless of the intended use, and for apples produced in the states of Michigan, New York, Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. Apparently, it is not the intent of the Senate Agriculture Committee to authorize federal marketing orders for apples that are to be used for canning or freezing.

Under the provisions of the Senate bill, no order could be issued for cherries or cranberries for canning or freezing without the approval of the processors of more than 50 percent of the volume of such commodity which was canned or frozen during a representative period determined by the Secretary of Agriculture.

The Senate Committee also approved language which would authorize marketing research and development projects, including advertising, as part of a marketing order. The expenses of such advertising and promotion programs would be paid from funds derived from the assessments on handlers which are authorized by section 10 of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act.

Another amendment approved by the Senate Committee would appear to authorize national marketing orders.

Neither the House nor the Senate bill would authorize marketing orders applicable to the canned or frozen products of any of the commodities named in the bills.

New Labor Standards Proposed in Mexican Program

A bill to extend the Mexican farm labor program for two years was approved, with an amendment, by the Senate Agriculture Committee on July 19, and ordered to be reported to the Senate.

As passed by the House on May 11, without amendment, H.R. 2010 would extend the (P.L. 78) program until December 31, 1963.

The amendment approved by the Senate Agriculture Committee this week would require, as a prerequisite to the employment of Mexican nationals, a finding by the Secretary of Labor that "reasonable efforts have been made to attract domestic workers for such employment at wages, standard hours of work, and working conditions comparable to those offered to foreign workers." The amendment would also provide that:

"No workers recruited under this title shall be made available to any employer or permitted to remain in the employ of any employer—

"(1) for employment in other than temporary or seasonal occupations, except in specific cases when found by the Secretary of Labor necessary to avoid undue hardship; or

"(2) for employment to operate or maintain power driven machinery, except in specific cases when found by the Secretary of Labor necessary for a temporary period to avoid undue hardship.

"No workers recruited under this title shall be made available to any employer or permitted to remain in the employ of any employer unless the employer offers and pays to both domestic and foreign workers not less than the prevailing wage paid in the area to domestic workers engaged in similar work, as determined by the Secretary of Labor, and unless the Secretary of Labor determines pursuant to section 503 (2) that such prevailing wage rate is not adversely affected by the employment of Mexican workers."

Extension for Filing Views on USDA Poultry Regulation

The USDA announced in the *Federal Register* of July 20 that the deadline for submission of written views on proposed amendments to the poultry regulations has been extended from July 15 to August 1 (see INFORMATION LETTER of July 8, page 208).

N.C.A. Supports Legislation for Oceanographic Research

A statement supporting the objectives of H.R. 4276, the "Oceanographic Act of 1961," was submitted by the N.C.A. on July 21 to the Subcommittee on Oceanography of the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries.

Introduced by Representative George P. Miller (Calif.), the bill is intended to "expand and develop the aquatic resources of the United States, including the oceans, estuaries, and rivers, the Great Lakes, and other inland waters . . ." It would establish a National Oceanographic Council at Cabinet level to develop long-range plans for research, development, studies and surveys of aquatic environments.

Public hearings on the proposal were held on June 19-23 and were concluded on July 14.

Excerpts from the N.C.A.'s statement follow:

"It is unquestionably true that our knowledge of the seas, which comprise approximately three-fourths of the earth's surface, has lagged far behind our knowledge and exploration of land and sky.

"It is ironic, in a sense, that we are beginning to explore the frontiers of outer space before we have explored fully the aquatic resources of our own planet. Eventually we may be compelled, by the sheer weight of our rapidly expanding world population, to investigate the ocean depths for possible new sources of high-protein foods with which to replenish our limited food supplies, as well as those of other nations. Before that time comes, it would be desirable to expand our basic knowledge of marine resources and the factors which control their distribution and affect their abundance.

"Foreign countries, including both those considered friendly to our way of life and those which are not, are increasing their exploitation of fishery resources in all areas of the world, including waters adjacent to our own coasts. Some of these countries appear to be far ahead of the United States in their study of the oceanographic sciences. The United States, for reasons of its own prestige and self-preservation, cannot afford to be left behind in this worldwide race.

"If it is to survive economically, the American fish canning industry must be able to compete successfully with

those of other nations where the costs of production are significantly lower. At present, the fishing fleets which supply the N.C.A.'s fish canners are required to spend long hours in search of their prospective catches. If we can learn more about the effects of various natural phenomena upon fish movements, we can reduce the time required for the catch and, thereby, lower the costs of production significantly."

S. 901 (Magnuson), to establish a national 10-year program of oceanographic research and surveys, was reported to the Senate, with amendments, on June 20. The N.C.A. testified on March 17 in support of the bill's objectives.

Bill To Prohibit Employment of Children in Agriculture

An amended version of H.R. 8191 (Zelenko), to prohibit the employment in agriculture of children below the age of 18, was approved by the House Select Subcommittee on Labor on July 19 and ordered to be reported to the full Committee on Education and Labor. A "clean" bill incorporating these amendments, H.R. 8279, was introduced on July 20 by Representative Zelenko.

The 18-year age limit would not apply to:

"(1) any employee employed in agriculture outside of school hours for the school district where such employee is living while he is so employed, if such employee is

"(A) employed by his parent, or by a person standing in the place of his parent, on a farm owned or operated by such parent or person, or

"(B) is fourteen years of age or over, or

"(C) is eleven years of age or over and is employed on a farm within the county of the employee's permanent residence or within an adjoining county, but not more than twenty-five miles from the employee's permanent residence, and the employment is with written consent of his parent or person standing in the place of his parent."

A similar bill, S. 1123 (Williams, N.J.), is pending before the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare. It would prohibit the employment in agriculture of children below the age of 14.

1961 Acreage of Sweet Corn for Canning

The planted acreage of sweet corn for canning in 1961 totals 385,196 acres, 11 percent more than the 1960 plantings of 347,164 acres, according to a report by the N.C.A. Division of Statistics.

The figures are for plantings of both white and golden varieties as reported during July by all canners known to be packing corn in 1961, except for one canner for whom an estimate was made. The report covers only sweet corn for canning and does not include acreage planted for freezing or other forms of processing.

The preliminary estimate by the USDA Crop Reporting Board of the planted acreage of sweet corn for canning and other processing, except freezing, is 369,580 acres (see INFORMATION LETTER of July 1, page 203).

State	Planted Acreage		Per- cent change
	1960 (acres)	1961 White and Golden (acres)	
East:			
Maine, Vt., and N. H....	3,392	3,900	+28
New York.....	11,427	13,354	+17
Md. and Del.....	27,938	30,420	+9
Pennsylvania.....	6,163	6,815	+11
Midwest:			
Ohio.....	5,053	5,532	+9
Ill. and Minn.....	137,369	147,657	+7
Wisconsin.....	100,189	113,854	+14
Iowa and Nebr.....	5,432	6,541	+20
Other Midwest states ^a ...	17,432	21,312	+22
Western states ^b	32,769	35,742	+9
U. S. Total.....	347,164	385,196	+11

^a Other Midwest states: Ark., Ga., Ind., Mich., Okla., Tenn., and Texas. ^b Western states: Colo., Idaho, Mont., Ore., Utah, Wash., and Wyo.

The total acreage of white varieties for canning was reported by the N.C.A. Division of Statistics at 30,198 acres, of which 24,195 acres were planted in the Midwest states and 5,827 acres were in the East. The total of 24,195 acres compares with 30,853 acres of white varieties planted in 1960.

MSSA Requirements for Canned Foods

Canned Food	Grade	Type	Can Size	Quantity (pounds)	Quantity (cases)
RSP cherries ^a	A	I(a)	24/303.....	2,078,400	86,000
			6/10.....	6,022,100	156,013
Peaches, halved, yellow cling or freestone ^b	A or B	I or II style 1	6/10.....	3,653,000	90,108
			24/2½.....	7,271,000	167,149
Peaches, quartered or sliced, yellow cling or freestone ^b	A or B	I or II style 2 or 3	6/10.....	7,167,000	176,963
			24/2½.....	5,635,000	129,540
Figs ^b	A	I	24/2½.....	1,373,000	30,511

^a To be procured by Chicago region, MSSA. ^b To be procured by Oakland region, MSSA.

Stocks of Canned Foods on July 1 and Season Shipments (N.C.A. Division of Statistics)

	Carry-over month	Case basis	Supply		Canners' Stocks, July 1		Season Shipments to July 1	
			1959-60	1960-61	1960	1961	1960	1961
			(thousands of cases)					
Apples.....	Sept.	6/10	4,888	4,175	1,592	1,170	3,296	3,005
Applesauce.....	Sept.	actual	19,235	19,726	4,470	5,127	14,765	14,599
RSP cherries.....	July	actual	4,326	2,555	336	*103	3,900	2,452
Pineapple ^b	June	actual	7,323	10,473	5,934	9,563	1,389	900
Pineapple juice ^b	June	actual	6,042	6,237	4,886	5,776	1,155	461
Beets.....	July	actual	11,607	10,300	2,446	*1,572	9,161	8,727
Carrots.....	July	actual	4,749	4,757	1,515	*1,458	3,233	3,298
Corn.....	Aug.	actual	42,823	37,374	4,726	3,260	38,008	34,114

^a Carryover from 1960 pack into 1961-62 season. ^b Source: Pineapple Growers Association of Hawaii; data include concentrated pineapple juice and frozen chunks.

Shipments of Metal Cans and Glass Containers, Jan.-May

(BUREAU OF THE CENSUS,
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

METAL CANS

	Jan.-May cumulative 1960	1961 (short tons of steel)
Fruit and fruit juices (in- cluding cans for fruit base still drinks sold as soft drinks).....	236,014	200,283
Vegetable and vegetable juice	176,049	211,055
Meat, including poultry.....	62,952	65,825
Fish and sea food.....	49,682	52,940
Baby food, including formulas	17,650	14,741
All other foods, including soups.....	199,252	204,342

GLASS CONTAINERS

	Jan.-May cumulative 1960	1961 (thousands of gross)
Wide-mouth food (including fruit jars, jelly glasses, and packers' tumblers).....	17,190	17,610
Narrow-neck food.....	6,353	6,713

Crew Leader Registration

A bill to require federal licensing of contractors of migratory agricultural workers was reported on July 19, with amendments, by the House Committee on Education and Labor on July 19.

H.R. 7812 (Zelenko), the "Farm Labor Contractor Registration Act of 1961," would require registration of "any person who, for a fee, either for himself or on behalf of another person, recruits, solicits, hires, furnishes, or transports 10 or more migrant workers (excluding members of his immediate family) at any one time in any calendar year for interstate agricultural employment."

The bill would exclude from the registration requirement any farmer, processor, canner, etc. "who engages in any such activity for the purpose of supplying migrant workers solely for his own operation."

A similar bill, S. 1126 (Williams, N. J.), is pending before the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare.

Poultry Used in Processing (Statistical Reporting Service of USDA)

	Jan.-May cumulative 1960	1961 (thousands of pounds)
Young chickens.....	29,476	80,273
Mature chickens.....	79,967	101,714
Turkeys.....	29,409	44,179
Other poultry.....	67	17,209
Total.....	138,919	243,435

Beginning with October, 1960, data on poultry parts and fat used in canning are no longer available by class of poultry and are included in "other."

Canned Green Beans for USDA

USDA announced on July 19 an offer to buy canned green snap beans packed during 1961 for use in the National School Lunch Program.

Offers will be considered only on No. 10 cans of green snap beans of Grade A, round type, cut style, except that the sizes shall not include beans which exceed size 5 (large).

Purchases will be made on an offer and acceptance basis, using funds appropriated under the National School Lunch Act.

Offers must be received by the Fruit and Vegetable Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA, by 4 p.m. EDT August 4 for acceptance by August 11. Delivery will be required during the period September 4 through October 9.

Further details may be obtained from Claude S. Morris of the Fruit and Vegetable Division (telephone 202 DU 8-2781).

Coronet

Food expert Poppy Cannon, author of the New Can-Opener Cookbook, reveals the secrets of luxury cooking in a special 24-page feature, "The Fast and Fancy Gourmet Cookbook," in the June issue of *Coronet* magazine.

The cookbook features fancy meals quickly and inexpensively by using more than 100 chef's short cuts and simple, new recipes. Canned foods are utilized 110 different times in varied ways with a concentration on new canned products.

Miss Cannon says, "The secret is simple: rid yourself of the old notion that something must be difficult to be worthwhile. The easy way is actually the better way! Food processors and scientists have been working together for years to create totally new kinds of prepared and semiprepared foods that are genuine short cuts to great eating. There are more than 1,200 new products on the market—many you've probably never heard of, and new ones come out almost daily. The way to start: take a notebook and a fresh eye to your market. You'll find that creative shopping for the new foods will be worth more than a course in cooking."

The canned foods uses included 15 ready-to-serve main courses; 21 fruits; 15 vegetables; 15 soups; 8 meats, poultry, fish; 21 baby and junior foods; and 13 specialties.

Charles O. Koller

Charles O. Koller, executive vice president of Charles G. Summers, Jr., Inc., died at his home in New Freedom, Pa., July 10. He had been active head of the firm for the past 10 years.

Mr. Koller was a member of the N.C.A. Board of Directors, 1952-53 and 1953-56.

USDA Appropriations

The House and Senate this week completed action on H.R. 7444, making appropriations for USDA for the fiscal year 1962, and cleared the bill for the President. The bill provides \$5,987,494,500, about \$1.9 billion more than the appropriation for the fiscal year just ended.

The conference report provides some \$77.3 million for research by the Agricultural Research Service, and includes \$25,000 earmarked for study of the feasibility of special engineering research on mechanical aids in the harvesting of citrus crops.

For the Agricultural Marketing Service the conferees allowed some \$4.7 million, which includes \$10,000 for research on maintenance of quality in citrus and \$10,000 to study methods for gaging maturity of apples. The bill also provides \$50,000 for administration of the Packers and Stockyards Act. The conference report recommends that the Secretary establish a separate agency for enforcement of that Act, reporting directly to an Assistant Secretary.

The bill contains \$125 million in direct appropriations for the school lunch program, an increase of \$15

Further FDA Extension on Washing Aids

Under the authority given by Congress in Public Law 87-19, the FDA has granted further extensions of the effective date of the Food Additives Amendment with respect to certain surface active agents used to wash fruits and vegetables for processing (see INFORMATION LETTER, March 25, page 127).

The new extension, published in the *Federal Register* of July 13, gives until July 1, 1963, for adoption of permanent regulations governing the safe use of these materials.

The list of materials covered by the new extensions is not exactly identical with that approved in March, because of additional information included in the more recent request for extensions. The surface active agents under the new extensions are as follows:

Polyethoxylated alkyl phenol, benzyl ether of (mol. wt. 726-1308)

Polyethoxylated alkyl phenol (dodecyl, nonyl, and octyl) (mol. wt. 426-1184)

Sodium dodecyl benzenesulfonate

Sodium 2-ethyl 1-hexyl sulfate

Sodium lauryl sulfate

million over the 1961 appropriations, and provides for the transfer of \$45 million from Section 32 funds. Also, the bill earmarks an additional \$10 million for commodity purchases under Section 6, \$2.5 million of which may be distributed to provide special assistance to needy schools, on an experimental basis.

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